

# **Box 1. Safeguards for minors and families with children**

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The Pact on Migration and Asylum significantly enhances protection for unaccompanied minors and families with children by introducing safeguards and reinforcing existing measures.

New obligations ensure that a representative is swiftly appointed to each unaccompanied minor to safeguard their wellbeing and protect their best interests.



Standards for representatives will be well defined to ensure proper supervision of minors.

Unaccompanied minors can be channelled through the accelerated procedure ONLY in limited circumstances.



Applying the concept of a first country of asylum or a safe third country must not be contrary to the best interests of an unaccompanied minor.



Age assessments must be performed using first a multidisciplinary assessment (including psychosocial evaluations) by qualified professionals.

By lowering the age to 6 years old to collect biometric data, authorities can more effectively establish the identity of minors and trace family members.



Free legal counselling is provided to unaccompanied minors to provide guidance, assistance and information throughout the administrative procedure.





Through the instruments of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, minors will have:

- ▶ Safer, adequate accommodation and continuity of care which caters to the specific needs of unaccompanied minors and families with minors.
- ▶ Access to more child-friendly information.
- ▶ Access to education in an age-appropriate manner.
- ▶ Better access to healthcare, similar to the access of nationals.



Minors should not be detained, except as a last resort.

Minors in detention will have access to education.



*Unaccompanied minors should be exempted from the border procedure, unless they pose a national security threat.*  
*The examination of applications by accompanied children will be prioritised for processing within a border procedure.*



Minors will have the right to request and obtain the template to facilitate the family reunification procedure.

